Assoc Prof Francis

DEPARTMENT of ENGLISH

Annual Report to Dean J.W. O'Brien

1964-65

This academic year was dominated by preparations for the proposed M.A. programme in English, details of which will no doubt be included in the report of the Board of Graduate Studies. By the end of the year, some fifteen serious applications had been received, and the graduate committee of the department was hard at work on establishing the conditions of admission in each case.

At the Spring Convocation, the first two honours graduates of the department received their degrees. Ten other students are enrolled in the second and third years of the programme.

At least four 1965 graduates won fellowships to continue their studies at various Canadian and American universities. Maurie Alioff, an honours student, was awarded Honorable Mention by the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Committee.

Only two extra-curricular events were organized by the department for students this year, but each was a considerable success. On Saturday, February 20, Professor Leslie A. Fiedler, of Montana and Buffalo Universities and author of Love and Death in the American Novel, read a characteristically inflamatory paper on "Minority and Protest Fiction." Three weeks later, on March 13, Professor Philip Stratford, author of Faith and Fiction, read an appropriately witty paper on "Graham Greene's Humour."

A departmental seminar was held in March, at which Mr Malcolm Foster read a paper on "Beyond Despair," a study of Joyce Cary.

The second annual cocktail party for members of English Departments in the Montreal district was held in the Faculty Club in November. In March, the Universities of Sherbrooke and Bishop's held a very successful tour, cocktail party and buffet supper as their contribution to what is now a regular series of fraternal visits.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Three new full-time members joined the staff on July 1:

G. David Sheps, B.A. (Manitoba, M.A. (Cornell) (Assistant Professor of English)

Howard I. Fink, M.A. (McGill) (Assistant Professor of English)

Abraham Ram, M.A. (McGill) (Lecturer in English)

HONOURS, FELLOWSHIPS, etc.

Assistant Professor Roslyn Belkin received the degree of M.A. from the University of Montreal.

Assistant Professor Audrey Bruné received her second master's degree, an A.M. (Theology and Art) from the University of Chicago.

PUBLICATIONS, SPECIAL ACTIVITIES, etc.

Assistant Professor Roslyn Belkin addressed a meeting of the brotherhood of Adath Jeshuran Hadreth Congregation, reviewing Zambrowski's Living is with People: The Culture of the Shtetl.

Assistant Professor Michael Brian offered the course English 221-TV over station CBMT. Over a hundred students were registered for credit.

In March, he addressed the McGill Letters Club on the subject of Macbeth.

Assistant Professor Mervin Butovsky offered two courses of ten lectures each at the Institute of Jewish Studies, on "Jews in Modern Fiction" and "Minorities in American Literature."

In March, he lectured to the Shaare Zion Book Club on Saul Bellow's Herzog.

Professor Neil Compton read a paper on "The Mass Media in a Marginal Society" at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association at Montreal in August. It was later published in Commentary. On September 27, 1964 he took part in a panel discussion on "The Effect of the Mass Media" on the programme Forum over CFCF-TV.

On January 19, he gave a talk Speaking Personally over the CBC radio network on "Who Wants a National Culture?"

He has been asked by the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism to write a long critical and philosophical study of the role of the mass media in English-speaking Canada.

Articles:

"Canada -- A Cultural Void?" (contribution to a symposium entitled Is Canada Possible?) Canadian Dimension I,8 (Sept.-Oct., 1964) pp 8-10.

"Television and Canadian Culture," Commentary XXXVIII (November, 1964) pp 75-79

"The Cool Revolution" (Review article on Marshall McLuhan's Understanding Media) Commentary XXXIX (Jan. 1965) pp 79-81

Review of Pierre Berton's The Comfortable Pew, Christian Outlook, April 1965, pp 17-18

Review of Leo Marx's The Machine in the Garden, Commentary XXXIX (May, 1965)

Malcolm Foster spent the summer of 1964 in England at work on his projected biography of Joyce Cary. He will return in 1965(aided by grants from CASA and the Canada Council)to complete the primary research.

On January 26, he addressed the Annual meeting of the Board of the Montreal Children's Library. His subject was "Where are all the Giant-Killers?" -- a plea for less moralizing and more drama in children's books.

During the year, he has contributed regular book reviews to the Entertainments supplement of the Montreal Star.

Associate Professor Wynne Francis has been invited to offer a course in Canadian literature at the 1965 summer session of the University of British Columbia.

She has now built up a collection of 15 tape recordings of contemporary Canadian poets reading their own work.

In March, she presided over a panel discussion on "Form and Style in Literature" at the St. James Literary Society.

Articles:
"Critic of Life: Louis Dudek as Man of Letters," Canadian Literature, 22 (Autumn, 1964)
Various reviews for Alphabet and the Montreal Star.
She has undertaken to write a regular column (4 - 5 times annually) reporting for the Star on the world of little magazines.

Associate Professor Sidney Lamb reviewed current motion pictures regularly on Sights and Sounds over radio station CBM; he reviewed Candy and Herzog for Trans Canada Matinee over CBC radio in April.

He delivered six lectures on "The Tragic Hero" in the University of the Air series over CBC radio, 30 October to December 4. The lectures were later published (see below).

On February 28, he gave an illustrated lecture on the Theatre of the Absurd (illustrations provided by a performance of Ionesco's The Lesson) at the YM-YWHA.

Publications:
(ed) Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare, with introduction, commentary and glossary, Toronto, 1964.
Tragedy, Toronto (CBC) 1965
(ed) King Lear, with introduction, commentary and glossary, Toronto, 1965.

Irving Layton published a new volume of poems The Laughing Rooster.

Associate Professor L.E. MacLean was chairman of the Committee which brought an excellent season of music and drama to the university.

Assistant Professor G.David Sheps published a number of major reviews in Canadian Dimension.

Mrs Anne Stokes attended the conference on College Composition and Communication in St. Louis in April. She will spend the summer at the University of Michigan studying the teaching of English as a foreign language.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Compton
Chairman
Department of English